

The Committee held a hearing titled, “Domestic Abstinence-Only Programs: Assessing the Evidence” on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building. [A preliminary transcript of this hearing is now available.](#)

Federally-funded abstinence-only programs require the exclusive teaching of abstinence until marriage and prohibit teaching about condoms or other contraceptives — other than to discuss failure rates. These programs have received over \$1.3 billion in federal funding over the past decade. Medical and scientific experts, as well as youth educators, will testify regarding the public health evidence of the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs and of more comprehensive programs.

-
- **The Honorable Lois Capps**, U.S. Representative (CA-23)
- **The Honorable Sam Brownback**, U.S. Senator (KS)
- **Ms. Shelby Knox**, Youth Speaker
- **Mr. Max Siegel**, Policy Associate, AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families
- **Dr. Georges Benjamin**, M.D., Executive Director, American Public Health Association
- **Dr. Margaret Blythe**, M.D., Chair, Committee on Adolescence, American Academy of Pediatrics
- **Dr. John Santelli**, M.D., M.P.H., Department Chair, Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University
- **Dr. Stan Weed**, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Research and Evaluation
- **Mr. Charles Keckler**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Dr. Harvey Fineberg**, M.D., Ph.D., President, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies
- **Dr. Marcia Crosse**, Director, Healthcare, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Documents and Links

- [Chairman Waxman's Opening Statement](#)
- [Testimony of John Santelli](#)
- [Presentation of John Santelli](#)
- [Testimony of Georges Benjamin](#)
- [Testimony of Margaret Blythe](#)
- [Testimony of Stan Weed](#)
- [Testimony of Max Siegel](#)
- [Testimony of Harvey Fineberg](#)
- [Testimony of Shelby Knox](#)
- [Testimony of Charles Keckler](#)
- [Testimony of Marcia Crosse](#)
- [Preliminary Hearing Transcript](#)